



PATENT APPLICATION
RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.115

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s): Rejda et al Date: December 18, 2002
Serial No: 09/930,741 Docket No.: STL 9825.00
Filed: August 15, 2001 Examiner: NA
For: ION MILL SHUTTER SYSTEM Art Unit: NA

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.115

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

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DEC 23 2002
TC 1/00

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to examination please amend the above identified application as follows:

Amendments

Please amend claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 17, 18, 19 and add claims 21-39.

1. (Amended) A method for producing magneto resistive heads comprising the steps of:

positioning at least two magneto resistive elements in spaced relation to one another;

placing the at least two magneto resistive elements in an environment where material is removed [nonselectively] from items in the environment;

monitoring a property of the at least two [of the plurality of] magneto resistive elements; and